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Letter dated 4 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 26 May and 3 June 1997.

On 26 May, two Turkish F-16 jet fighter planes violated the Nicosia flight information region and national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus. From 1547 to 1611 hours, the planes, flying from a north-westerly direction, entered the flight information region of Nicosia and then flew over the northern part of the Kyrenia area.

On 3 June, five Turkish F-4 military planes, entering from a north-westerly direction between the hours of 1006 and 1443, once again violated the Nicosia flight information region and national airspace of the Republic, flying over the area of Kyrenia and then exited in a north-easterly direction.

Such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the airspace of the Republic are in violation of international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus. At the same time, they heighten tension in Cyprus and are in contravention of the provisions of repeated Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly against the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of international law,

the Charter of the United Nations and relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

Moreover, it should be pointed out that these violations, which heighten tension in Cyprus, take place at a most sensitive phase of the efforts to resume the intercommunal talks under your auspices.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58 of the fifty-first session, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador, Permanent Representative